

## Exhibit 2: Letters of Support



### United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes, California 94956

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7617

April 5, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
c/o Michael Bowen, Project Manager  
Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support of Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan

Dear Mr. Bosco:

We are writing to express our support for the "Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan" proposed by Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA).

This proposed project addresses the four-square mile Bear Valley Creek watershed within Point Reyes National Seashore. Bear Valley Creek is a tributary to Lagunitas Creek and Tomales Bay, which supports one of the largest remaining coho salmon populations in the Central California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit (CCCESU). During the last 150 years, the watershed has been heavily altered by agriculture and development has significantly altered the creek's hydrologic and biological resources. While steelhead and salmon were common to Bear Valley Creek historically, current salmonid populations likely represent resident rainbow trout. Current culvert infrastructure at road crossings appears to minimize, if not preclude, passage of fish into the watershed.

The watershed enhancement planning process would include a watershed assessment and recommendations to accomplish fish passage, stream and riparian enhancement. PRNSA would work with the Seashore and the County of Marin to identify actions to improve hydrologic connectivity and restoration of watershed habitat, and complete the planning and design phases of these activities. The proposed project would assess culvert conditions and recommend replacement of existing stream crossings with structures that meet state and federal fish passage guidelines. The watershed assessment process would evaluate fish passage and habitat conditions in the lower reaches of the watershed and its ability to provide fish passage, aquatic species and neotropical bird habitat.

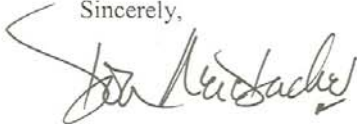
Point Reyes National Seashore is currently planning a large-scale wetlands restoration project at the Waldo Giacomini Ranch in the southern portion of Tomales Bay. Historically, the Giacomini Ranch and Olema Marsh/lower Bear Valley Creek represented the largest tidal wetland complex within Tomales Bay, but these areas were

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disconnected and altered by construction of a series of levees for roads and a dairy operation during the early 1900s. By moving forward with enhancement of Bear Valley Creek, there is a great opportunity to capitalize upon the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project and expand the scope of the hydrologic and ecological benefits to Tomales Bay.

Bear Valley Creek flows through park headquarters and along the most heavily traveled trail in the park. Restoration of natural hydrologic process, fish and riparian habitat, and potentially coho salmon to the watershed would provide for important educational and outreach opportunities to the community and park visitors. Given the synergy of this project with the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project, we are excited opportunity to work with PRNSA and the County of Marin in improving conditions within the Bear Valley Creek watershed. We urge you to consider this project a funding priority.

Sincerely,



Don L. Neubacher  
Superintendent

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Region  
777 Sonoma Ave., Room 325  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404-6528

April 19, 2005

In Response Refer To:  
SWR/F/SWR3:DL

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
c/o Michael Bowen, Project Manager  
Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway Street, 11th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The purpose of this letter is to express NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) support of the "Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan" proposed by Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA).

Bear Valley Creek is tributary to Tomales Bay. The Tomales Bay watershed contains Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), coho salmon (*O. kisutch*), and steelhead (*O. mykiss*), all three species are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended. The Tomales Bay watershed probably contains the largest remaining populations of the Central California Coast (CCC) coho salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU). Following a recent status review, NMFS proposed to upgrade the CCC coho salmon ESU to endangered status.

Many land-use activities have altered the creek's hydrologic and biological resources. While steelhead and salmon were present in Bear Valley Creek historically, placement of inadequately designed culverts, among other activities, preclude passage of fish into or out of the watershed. In addition, riparian vegetation and sediment transport have been negatively affected by land-use activities in the watershed. Anadromous salmonids have been extirpated from Bear Valley Creek. Improved hydrologic connectivity and restoration of watershed habitat is essential for recovery of ESA-listed salmonids. The Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan will provide these components and provides a great opportunity to capitalize upon other restoration activities proposed within the Tomales Bay watershed.



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Beyond the biological significance of the proposed project, important educational and outreach opportunities are possible, as the Bear Valley Creek watershed is one of the most visited watersheds of the Point Reyes National Seashore. NMFS believes that the proposed Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan is important and encourages the Coastal Conservancy to consider this project a funding priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dick Butler", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dick Butler  
Acting Santa Rosa Area Office Supervisor  
Protected Resources Division

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

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State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

POST OFFICE BOX 47  
YOUNTVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94599  
(707) 944-5500

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor



April 8, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
c/o Michael Bowen, Project Manager  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support of *Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan*, proposed by  
Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA)

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) regards this project as a high priority in the effort to recover Central California Coast coho salmon, listed as "endangered" on the State endangered species list and "threatened" on the Federal list. Under recommendations set forth by the *Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon* (DFG 2004), the following pertains to the *Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan* proposal:

- Lagunitas Creek hydrologic sub-area which includes Bear Valley Creek, is given the highest priority rating for coho recovery
- "Restore Olema Marsh, Bear Valley Creek, and the mouth of Olema Creek to benefit coho salmon. The restoration should provide rearing habitat refuge during high flows, habitat protection, and hydrologic connectivity between marshes." National Park Service and DFG are listed as "lead action entities"
- Coho salmon in the Lagunitas Creek watershed are a "key population to maintain or improve"

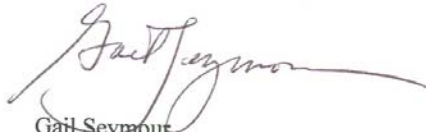
The proposed *Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan* will be the critical initial step towards restoring this significant tributary for the benefit of coho salmon and other native species. The plan to assess and design upgrades of existing stream crossings and restore hydrologic connectivity will lead to the elimination of fish migration barriers within this tributary. DFG is confident that by funding this proposed planning project, on-the-ground Salmonid habitat restoration, education and outreach opportunities will be implemented in the near future.

In our recent discussions to work together to fund high priority projects, the developing partnership between the CA Coastal Conservancy and DFG is recognized as a force that will preserve our endangered resources. I thank you for joining us in that effort and for considering DFG's recommendations.

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Please call me at (707) 944-5579 or email me at [gseymour@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:gseymour@dfg.ca.gov) should you wish to discuss the proposed *Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan*.

Sincerely,



Gail Seymour  
DFG Watershed Restoration Planner

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.



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Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.  
Agency Secretary

### California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Francisco Bay Region

1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, California 94612  
(510) 622-2300 • Fax (510) 622-2460  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay>



Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

File No. 2158.02 (lcf)  
April 11, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
c/o Michael Bowen, Project Manager  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Support of Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan

Dear Mr. Bosco:

We understand that the Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA) is applying to the California Coastal Conservancy for funding to develop a watershed enhancement plan for the Bear Valley Creek Watershed in Marin County. The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) strongly endorses this proposal. This project would support evaluation and planning for the entire Bear Valley Watershed, through Point Reyes National Seashore headquarters and the Bear Valley Trail. Bear Valley Creek is tributary to Lagunitas Creek and included within the Lagunitas Creek Watershed. Lower Bear Valley Creek runs through Olema Marsh prior to connecting with Lagunitas Creek.

Lagunitas Creek and Olema Creek currently support viable populations of steelhead and coho salmon. Bear Valley Creek historically also supported these species, but they are no longer present due to numerous issues including migration barriers and habitat and water quality impairment. Coho salmon and steelhead, anadromous fish with tremendous ecological and commercial significance in California, have both been listed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as threatened throughout most of central and northern coastal California, including Marin County. The Lagunitas Creek Watershed is located in the Central Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU), as determined by NMFS; this watershed is estimated to contain 10% of the remaining coho salmon returning to California's freshwater streams. Additionally, genetic work by Bodega Marine Lab and NMFS has indicated that the coho population in Lagunitas Creek has high genetic variability, which is indicative of wild stock. This genetic integrity, in conjunction with the relative abundance of the population, makes the viability of this coho population an issue of local, regional, and statewide significance. Restoration of Bear Valley Creek and Olema Marsh are integral components of a watershed scale restoration plan for recovery of these species. In recognition of this, the California Department of Fish and Game Coho Recovery Strategy (CDFG 2004, p. 9.86, BM-LA-11) states: "Restore Olema Marsh, Bear Valley Creek, and the mouth of Olema Creek."

Additionally, the Water Board has listed the Lagunitas Creek Watershed on the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) list as impaired due to high sediment, nutrient, and pathogen loads. As a tributary to Lagunitas Creek, Bear Valley Creek is included in this listing, and improvements in stream water quality

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and habitat are necessary under the CWA requirements. In addition to preparing an enhancement plan that will evaluate fish migration barriers, the PRNSA proposal plans to identify opportunities for restoration and enhancement of riparian habitat and restoration of natural stream processes. Implementation of these plan elements should significantly reduce sediment and nutrient loads and protect aquatic resources of Bear Valley Creek and lower Lagunitas Creek, in accordance with Water Board and CWA mandates.

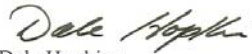
It is important to note that the Lagunitas Creek Watershed is the site of numerous other restoration activities and is an area that has widespread local community and local, state and federal government support for creek and fish habitat restoration. The planned restoration of the Giacomini wetlands, at the mouth of Lagunitas Creek in the Tomales Bay estuary, is integrally related to restoration in the Bear Valley Watershed. A large body of scientific research on steelhead and coho has documented the need of these species for floodplain wetland habitat and tributary habitat to survive and grow during the winter high flow season. Together, these two restoration projects could significantly enhance coho and steelhead survival, and thus assist in the population recovery of the species.

Lastly, we support projects such as this, which have a high potential as an educational tool for the general public. The Bear Valley Visitor Center receives a large number of daily visitors, and Bear Valley Creek is very visible and highly accessible to the public.

In summary, we are very supportive of the proposed planning project and believe it will lead to the improvement of aquatic resources in Bear Valley Creek, Olema Marsh, and lower Lagunitas Creek. Implementation of the resulting plan would be consistent with the goals of many agencies charged with protecting aquatic resources and water quality, including the Water Board.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Leslie Ferguson at (510) 622-2344 ([lferguson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:lferguson@waterboards.ca.gov)) or Dale Hopkins at (510) 622-2362 ([dhopkins@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dhopkins@waterboards.ca.gov)).

Sincerely,



Dale Hopkins  
Watershed Coordinator  
North Bay Watershed Management Division

Cc: Leslie Ferguson, RWQCB



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COUNTY OF MARIN  
www.co.marin.ca.us/pw

ADMINISTRATION  
415/499-6570

ACCOUNTING  
415/499-7877

AIRPORT  
451-A AIRPORT ROAD  
NOVATO, CA 94945  
415/897-1754  
FAX 415/897-1264

BUILDING MAINTENANCE  
415/499-6576  
FAX 415/499-3250

CAPITAL PROJECTS  
415/499-7877  
FAX 415/499-3724

ENGINEERING & SURVEY  
415/499-7877  
FAX 415/499-3724

COUNTY GARAGE  
415/499-7380  
FAX 415/499-3738

LAND DEVELOPMENT &  
FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT  
415/499-6549

PRINTING  
415/499-6377  
FAX 415/499-6617

COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT  
415/499-6371

COMMUNICATION MAINTENANCE  
415/499-7313  
FAX 415/499-3738

REAL ESTATE  
415/499-6578  
FAX 415/446-7373

ROAD MAINTENANCE  
415/499-7388  
FAX 415/499-3656

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING  
415/499-6528

TRANSIT DISTRICT  
415/499-6099  
FAX 415/499-6939

WASTE MANAGEMENT  
415/499-6647  
FAX 415/446-7373

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

P. O. Box 4186, San Rafael, CA 94913-4186 • 415/499-6528 • FAX 415/499-3799

April 8, 2005

Farhad Mansourian, RCE  
Director

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
c/o Michael Bowen, Project Manager  
Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support of Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan

Dear Mr. Bosco:

We are writing to express our support for the "Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan" proposed by Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA). The California Department of Fish and Game Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon (CDFG 2004), Recommendation BM-LA-08, which states "consider restoration of Olema Marsh, Bear Valley Creek, and the mouth of Olema Creek, to benefit coho salmon. The restoration should provide rearing habitat refuge during high flows, habitat protection, and food production. Hydrologic connectivity between marshes should be restored."

This proposed project addresses the four square mile, Bear Valley Creek watershed within Point Reyes National Seashore. Bear Valley Creek is a tributary to Lagunitas Creek and Tomales Bay, which supports one of the largest remaining coho salmon populations in the Central California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit (CCCESU). During the last 150 years, the watershed has been heavily altered by agriculture and development has significantly altered the creek's hydrologic and biological resources. While steelhead and salmon were common to Bear Valley Creek historically, current salmonid populations likely represent resident rainbow trout. Current culvert infrastructure at road crossings appears to minimize, if not preclude, passage of fish into the watershed.

The watershed enhancement planning process would include a watershed assessment and recommendations to accomplish fish passage, stream and riparian enhancement. PRNSA would work with the Seashore and the County of Marin to identify actions to improve hydrologic connectivity and restoration of watershed habitat, and complete the planning and design phases of these activities. The proposed project would assess culvert conditions and recommend replacement of existing stream crossings with structures that meet state and federal fish passage guidelines. The proposed project will utilize data from the Coastal Conservancy funded Marin County Stream Crossing Assessment prepared by Ross Taylor and Associates in 2003. The watershed assessment process would evaluate fish passage and habitat conditions in the lower reaches of the watershed and its ability to provide fish passage, aquatic species and neotropical bird habitat.

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Point Reyes National Seashore is currently planning a large-scale wetlands restoration project at the Waldo Giacomini Ranch in the southern portion of Tomales Bay. Historically, the Giacomini Ranch and Olema Marsh/lower Bear Valley Creek represented the largest tidal wetland complex within Tomales Bay, but these areas were disconnected and altered by construction of a series of levees for roads and a dairy operation during the early 1900s. By moving forward with enhancement of Bear Valley Creek, there is a great opportunity to capitalize upon the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project and expand the scope of the hydrologic and ecological benefits to Tomales Bay.

Bear Valley Creek flows through park headquarters and along the most heavily traveled trail in the park. Restoration of natural hydrologic process, fish and riparian habitat, and potentially coho salmon to the watershed would provide for important educational and outreach opportunities to the community and park visitors. Given the synergy of this project with the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project, we are excited opportunity to work with PRNSA and the County of Marin in improving conditions within the Bear Valley Creek watershed. We urge you to consider this project a funding priority.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Lewis  
Creek Naturalist

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

cc: Saaid Fakharzadeh, Assistant Director  
Brannon Ketchum, Hydrologist, Point Reyes National Seashore



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### AUDUBON CANYON RANCH CYPRESS GROVE RESEARCH CENTER

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
c/o Michael Bowen, Project Manager  
Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

April 8, 2005

RE: Support of Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan

Dear Mr. Bosco:

We are writing to express our support for the "Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan" proposed by Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA). It is our understanding, that the proposed watershed enhancement planning process for Bear Valley Creek, would include a watershed assessment and recommendations to improve fish passage, aquatic and riparian habitat within the four square miles of the Bear Valley Creek watershed. This work would identify actions that would improve hydrologic connectivity between Bear Valley Creek and Tomales Bay. The primary objective of the planning and design phases will be to evaluate the condition of culverts and stream crossings that could affect fish passage between Tomales Bay and the Bear Valley watershed. The watershed assessment process would also evaluate conditions in the lower reaches of the watershed that affect fish passage, and could potentially improve habitat for other aquatic species and birds.

The lower portion of the watershed includes Olema Marsh, which is a forty-acre wetland owned by Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR). As you may know, ACR is a private, non-profit organization that manages a system of wildlife sanctuaries in Marin and Sonoma Counties including 450 acres of tidelands, marshes and shoreline properties around Tomales Bay. ACR purchased Olema Marsh from a hunting club in 1973, and manages the property for the benefit of winter and breeding birds as well as other native species. Our neighbor to the southeast, is the Point Reyes National Seashore, which provides an interpretive viewpoint that overlooks the marsh and a parking area for the public on a 14.8-acre parcel. Both of these properties are contiguous with Bear Valley Creek and are within the proposed boundaries for the Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan.

We are encouraged by the possibility of improving natural hydrologic process, fish and riparian habitat in Bear Valley Creek watershed because this could increase essential spawning and rearing habitat for salmonids in the Central California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit. ACR also supports the inclusion of Olema Marsh in the project boundary for the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project because it facilitates planning at the landscape level and will increase our understanding of physical and biological processes throughout the system. We anticipate that the information derived during the assessment and planning phases of both of these projects, will provide many scientific and public benefits in the years to come. Therefore, we encourage you to consider this project an important funding priority. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katherine L. Etienne  
Research Coordinator

John P. Kelly  
Director of Research and Resource Management

cc: Mr. Skip Schwartz, Mr. Don Neubacher, Ms. Lorraine Parsons

P. O. Box 808 • Marshall • California 94940 • 415-663-8203 • [www.egret.org](http://www.egret.org) • Email: [cg@svn.net](mailto:cg@svn.net)

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OAKLAND, CALIF.

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### TOMALES BAY WATERSHED COUNCIL

April 7, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Chairman  
c/o Michael Bowen, Project Manager  
Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support of Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing on behalf of the Tomales Bay Watershed Council (Council), a broad-based coalition made up of 29 representatives from all of the stakeholders in the watershed including residential and community groups, environmental and agricultural interests, mariculture, recreational interests, local residents and public agencies. We wish to express our support and encouragement for the "Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan" proposed by Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA).

The Tomales Bay Watershed Stewardship Plan prioritizes assessment, restoration and protection of salmonid, wetland and aquatic habitats in the Lagunitas Creek watershed (see [www.tomalesbaywatershed.org](http://www.tomalesbaywatershed.org) for more information about the Stewardship Plan and the Salmonid Report). The Lagunitas Creek watershed supports one of the largest remaining native coho salmon populations in the Central California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit. This coho run is one of the last refuges for wild salmon that remains in the state, and it is drawn upon for regional restoration efforts by the California Department of Fish and Game. Bear Valley Creek is a tributary to Lagunitas Creek and Tomales Bay, and includes vigorous and vibrant sections of healthy aquatic and wetland habitats. Unfortunately, however, during the last 150 years much of the Bear Valley Creek watershed has been heavily altered by agriculture, and development has significantly impacted the creek's hydrologic and biological resources. While steelhead and salmon were prolific in Bear Valley Creek historically, current salmonid populations are thought to include only rainbow trout.

By taking the appropriate steps to reconnect this system, and due to existing salmon populations that return to the neighboring tributaries each winter, it is likely that Bear Valley Creek watershed could support wild coho and steelhead runs again in the near future. However, today culvert infrastructure at road crossings appears to minimize, if not preclude, passage of fish into the watershed and the opportunity to restore and correct this situation is truly fantastic. Bear Valley Creek watershed provides a unique opportunity to make meaningful and effective ecological changes that will benefit the entire watershed, and due to public ownership of the landscape that surrounds Bear Valley Creek, we are assured that these efforts will be long lasting. This is a rare and significant quality in the Lagunitas Creek watershed where private property has divided much of the landscape.

The Council has prioritized this watershed for assessment and action and applauds the efforts of PRNSA, the National Park and the County of Marin as they take the lead in this important initiative. We urge you to consider this project a funding priority. If you have additional questions about the Council or our support of this project, please contact me at 415.663.9092.

Thank you,

  
Neysa King, Watershed Coordinator

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

P.O. Box 447 Point Reyes Station, California 94956 p(415) 663-9092 f(415) 663-9094 email: [tbwc@horizoncable.com](mailto:tbwc@horizoncable.com)  
[www.tomalesbaywatershed.org](http://www.tomalesbaywatershed.org)



## Exhibit 2: Letters of Support



### SIERRA CLUB MARIN GROUP

COASTAL SECTION C/O GORDON BENNETT  
Box 3058 San Rafael CA 94912 40 Sunnyside Dr Inverness CA 94937  
sanfranciscobay.sierraclub.org/marin 415-663-1881 gbatmuirb@aol.com

April 1, 2005

Douglas Bosco, Coastal Conservancy Chairman  
c/o Michael Bowen, Project Manager, 1330 Broadway, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support of Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan

Dear Mr. Bosco:

On behalf of the Sierra Club's 7,000 Marin County members and our 750,000 national members, we are writing to express our support for the "Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan" proposed by Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA).

The Bear Valley Creek watershed, within Point Reyes National Seashore, is adjacent to the Seashore's Giacomini Wetland Restoration, which the Sierra Club is already on record as supporting. The Giacomini Wetland Restoration enhances the Tomales Bay estuary of Lagunitas Creek, which supports one of the largest remaining coho salmon populations in the Central California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit. Bear Valley Creek is a tributary to this estuary, but Bear Valley's hydrologic and biological resources, like those of Lagunitas Creek, have been significantly altered by agriculture and other development. Steelhead and coho were once as common in Bear Valley Creek as in Lagunitas Creek, but now road-crossing culverts preclude fish passage up Bear Valley Creek. The Lagunitas Creek watershed contains significant private property ownership, which makes restoration of its historic fisheries more difficult; nevertheless, Lagunitas Creek is the site of the most successful salmon restoration projects in California. Bear Valley Creek's watershed is largely within PRNS, which should make restoration, always complex, comparatively easier than in the Lagunitas Creek watershed.

Therefore, the Sierra Club regards the Bear Valley Creek project as a great opportunity both to expand the Giacomini Wetland Restoration's hydrologic and ecological benefits to Tomales Bay as well as to expand efforts for the preservation of endangered salmonid fisheries throughout the Tomales Bay watershed. Furthermore, Bear Valley Creek flows along the most heavily traveled trail in the Seashore, so this project would provide for important educational opportunities to the community and to Seashore visitors. We urge you to consider the Bear Valley Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan a funding priority.

Sincerely

Gordon Bennett,  
Chair, Sierra Club Marin Group  
Executive Committee, SF Bay Chapter

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.